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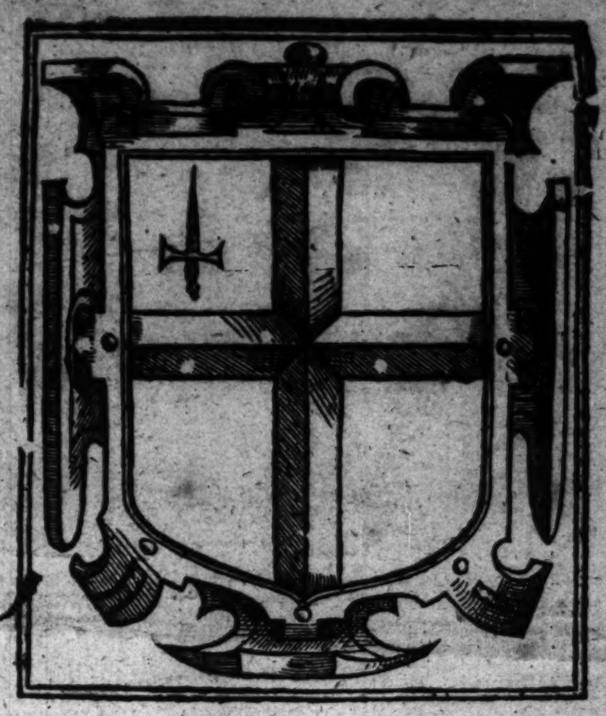

Commune Concilium tentum in Camera *Guihald.*

Ciuit' London, viceſimo die Iulii anno regni Regis CAROLI Angliæ &c. ſeptimo, coram Roberto Ducie mil' & Baron. Maiore ciuitatis London, Thoma Middleton mil' & Aldermanno ciuit' London, Nicholao Raynton, Rad. Freeman, Thoma Moulſon, Rolando Heyling, Roberto Parkhurſt, Iohan' Poole, Chriſtoph. Cletherow, Rich. Fenn Aldermannis, Mauritio Abbot mil' & Aldermanno, Henr' Garway, Rolando Backhouſe, Aldermannis, VVillielmo Acton mil' & Baronett. ac Aldermanno, Humfrido Smith, & Edmundo VVright eiuſdem ciuitatis Aldermannis, Anthonio Abdy & Roberto Cambell eiuſdem ciuitatis Vicecomitib', ac maiore parte Communiariorum de Communi Concilio eiuſdem ciuitatis aſſemblat.

An Act of Common Councell for the reformation of ſundry abuſes practiſed by diuers perſons vpon the common Markets, and ſtreets of the City of London.

WHereas the ſtreets and lanes of this City are the kings high wayes for the vſe of paſſengers, and of late it is come to paſſe that diuers vnruly people, as Butchers, Bakers, Poulters, Chandlers, Fruiterers, Sempſters, ſellers of Grocery wares, Oyſter wiues, Herbe wiues, Tripe wiues, and the like; who not contented to enioy the benefit and common right of Citizens, by holding their Market and continuall Trades in their ſeuerall Shops & houſes where they dwell, doe contrary to all reaſon and to the great ſcandall of the gouernement, by themſelues, wiues, children, and ſeruants, enter into, and take vp theire onto which the country people only haue in former times vſed to reſort to vend and vtter their victuall and other commodities: in which Markets the ſaid Freemen doe abide for the moſt part of the day, and that not onely vpon Market dayes, but all the weeke long with multitudes of Baskets, Tubs, Chaires, Boards & Stooles, and by their example it is likewiſe come to paſſe that a very great multitude of Forreiners idle and euill diſpoſed perſons inhabiting in or neere the City, who, framing to themſelues a way whereby to lead a more eaſie life than by labour, and daily increaſing in number, doe practiſe the like feats: whereby it is already come to paſſe, that the common Market places by thoſe diſordered people be ſo taken vp, that countrey people when they come with victuall and prouiſion haue no roome left them to ſet downe their Horſes & Baskets, the ſtreets ſo peſtred that paſſengers are greatly troubled and diſturbed, the inhabitants driuen to forſake their houſes and ſhops, to their vndoing, & the price of victuals inhaunced to the damage of the City in generall.

For reformation of which enormities be it enacted by the right honourable the Lord Maior, the Aldermen his brethren, and Commons in this Common Councell aſſembled, and by the authority of the ſame. That no perſon or perſons inhabiting in the City of London, Liberties, and Suburbs thereof, after the feaſt of Saint Michael the Archangel next comming after the publication hereof, ſhall preſume to ſtand or ſit in any common Market, ſtreet or lane of this City, or the Suburbs thereof, or vnder any ſtall in doores, or in the out ſide of ſhop windowes, to ſell any manner of prouiſion, victuals, or wares whatſoeuer, vpon paine for euery time ſo doing to vndergoe ſuch penalties as hereafter enſue: viz. For the firſt offence xx. s. ſterling, for the ſecond offence xl. s. for the third offence iiii. l. for the fourth offence viii. l. and ſo the penalty to be doubled for euery offence from time to time, ſo often as he or ſhe ſhall offend againſt the true meaning of this Act, Nor any perſon dwelling or inhabiting in or neere Cheapſide, Newgate Market, Gracious-ſtreet, or Leadenhall ſtreet ſhall take, require or exact any ſumme of money or other thing of any perſon or perſons, for, or in reſpect of their ſtanding or ſitting in the ſaid ſeuerall places, or any of them, vpon the like forfeitures as aforeſaid, but that all and euery perſon and perſons reſorting to the ſaid Markets, or any of them, with their victuall, ſhall and may ſit, ſtand, and put to ſale their victuals and wares in the common and open Markets there freely, without paying any thing therefore other than the ancient knowne duties.

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Prouided alwaies, that ſuch as keepe Stues, or places of ſtore for Pyke and Carpe, ſhall or may lawfully ſit or abide in the ſtreets and Markets of this City and the Suburbs, during the houres appointed for Market, to vtter their fiſh: Any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Alſo bee it enacted by the authority aforeſayd, That no perſon or perſons reſorting to this City or the Suburbs thereof with any victuall, ſhall open his, her or their Horſers, or make ſhew of the ſaid victuall to ſell the ſame, vntill hee, ſhee or they bring the ſame to the common Market place, and vntill morning Market Bell begin to ring, nor ſhall ſtay longer in the ſaid Market than one of the clocke in the afternoone, vpon paine for each offence to forfeit, viz. For the firſt offence xx. s. for the ſecond offence xl. s and ſo from time to time, ſo often as he or ſhee ſhall offend againſt the true intent of this Act the penalty to be doubled as the offence ſhall be multiplied. Prouided alwayes, that it ſhall and may bee lawfull for ſuch as by themſelues, their wiues, children or ſeruants ſhall bring Peaſecods, Straw-berries, Reſpaſſes, Roſes, or Milke to the Markets or ſtreets of this City to ſell, being of their owne growth or making, to ſtay and tarry there ſo long as he or they ſhall ſee cauſe: Any thing or clauſe in this Act to the contrary notwithſtanding.

And be it further enacted, That euery ſeuerall common Market of this City, and Liberties thereof (where want is) ſhall haue a Market Bell ſet vp in a conuenient place therein, at the charge of the Chamber: and that the Market Bell within this City and the Liberties thereof ſhall be rung twice euery Market day, viz. The firſt ringing thereof, from our Lady day to Michaelmas, to be at ſeuen of the clocke in the morning and not before, and from Michaelmas to our Lady day, to be at eight of the clocke in the morning and not before. Before which times and houres, by the true meaning of this Act it ſhall not be lawfull for any perſon or perſons to open their Horſers, or ſet their victuals or prouiſions to ſale: and after the ſaid Bell begins to ring, it ſhall not be lawfull for any to hide, ſhadow, or conceale their victuall or other things brought to the Market, but ſhall openly ſhew the ſame. The ſecond ringing of the ſayd Bell ſhall begin at euery ſeuerall Market within this City and Liberties halfe an houre after eleuen of the clocke in the forenoone, and ſo ſhall continue ringing for one halfe houre, viz. vntill twelue of the clocke. At which houre, by the true meaning of this Act, the Retaylers and Tradeſmen of this City and Liberties, may lawfully enter to make their prouiſion and buy vp the remainder of the Markets, and carry the ſame to their ſeuerall houſes or ſhops, and not before, vpon ſuch paines and penalties as in this preſent Act is ſet forth and expreſſed. And laſtly it is ordered, that all his Maieſties officers miniſters, and louing ſubiects within this City and the Liberties thereof, ſhall bee ayding and aſſiſting to any perſon or perſons, who ſhall labour or endeauour in the due execution of the premiſſes.

All which paines, penalties, forfeitures & ſummes of mony to be forfeited by vertue of this Act or Ordinance ſhalbe recouered by action of debt, bill or plaint, to be cõmenced & proſecuted in the name of the Chamberlaine of the City of London for the time being, in the Kings Maieſties Court to be holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, before the Maior and Aldermen of the ſame City, wherein no eſſoigne or wager of Law ſhall be admitted or allowed for the defendant. And that the Chamberlaine of the ſaid City for the time being, ſhall in all ſuits to be proſecuted by vertue of this Act or Ordinance againſt any offender, recouer the ordinary coſts of ſuit to be expended in and about the proſecution thereof: and if the ſuit paſſe for the defendant, then the defendant to recouer his coſts. And further that one moity of all forfeitures to be recouered by vertue hereof (the coſts of the ſuit for recouery of the ſame being deducted and allowed) ſhalbe after the recouery and receipt thereof payd and deliuered to the Treaſurer of Chriſts Hoſpitall, to be imployed towards the releife of the poore children to be brought vp and maintained in the ſaid Hoſpitall: and the other moity to him or them, which ſhall firſt giue information of the offences for which ſuch forfeitures ſhall grow, and proſecute ſuit in the name of the Chamberlaine of the ſaid City for recouery of the ſame: Any thing in this Act to the contrary notwithſtanding.

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